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April 24, 2015

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) in Cooperation with the Department's Landowner and Sportsmen Relations Advisory Board (LSRAB) are once again hosting a Landowner / Land User Awards Banquet.

Over 90% of Maine's land is privately owned. Outdoor enthusiasts rely on the generosity of private landowners to allow public access to their land. Additionally, the responsible and appropriate use of private land by various user groups has helped to build relationships between landowners and land user groups which allow many outdoors recreational opportunities to flourish. The IF&W Landowner Relations Program seeks to maintain Maine's unique heritage and ensure that the outdoor recreational opportunities available today, will continue to be available to future generations.

The Landowner Relations Awards Banquet is an annual event sponsored by IF&W and the LSRAB. Nomination forms are distributed to various user groups, (ATV clubs, snowmobile clubs, fish and game clubs) and landowners. The nominations are then reviewed by an awards committee from LSRAB. The selection committee seeks to recognize the most outstanding landowners and land user group through public recognition at our annual awards banquet.

Enclosed, please find the nomination form for Landowner of the Year Award. All nominations must be submitted by June 6, 2015. Awards will fall under the following categories:

Private landowner - 100 acres or less;
Private landowner - 100 acres or more;
Corporate landowner;
Public landowner (i.e. Towns, municipalities); and
Conservation landowner (i.e. state parks, land trusts)

Nominees can include any landowner who meets the above classification; previous award winners have been:

2013: **100 Acres or more** – John Willard Jr; Alan and Sandra Dorr; Steven and Diana Hobart; Jack and Jessica Dickson
Conservation – Downeast Lakes Land Trust
Corporate – Irving Woodlands LLC
Public – Town of Falmouth
2012: **100 Acres or less** – Thomas Webster; Allen Hill
100 Acres or more – Lyle "Chi" Guptill; Elmer & Beatrice Littlefield
Corporate – Prentiss & Carlisle; Treeline, Incorporated
2011: **100 Acres or less** – Greg Young; Otis Ventures LLC
100 Acres or more – Cyr Potato; Porter Farms; Mike and Mary Hartt
Conservation – SWOAM Land Trust
Corporate – Heartwood; Plum Creek
Public – Penobscot Indian Nation

Nominations should be detailed and include something other than unrestricted access to property or allowing a trail on their property. In the past, landowners who encourage the principles of "multiple use" have been particularly appealing to the selection committee. There are many landowners who exhibit exceptional efforts towards helping make all outdoor recreation in Maine be the best it can be. We look forward to receiving your nomination form. Microsoft word 2010 versions of the nomination forms are available upon request by emailing Heather.Rodrigue@maine.gov or call 207-547-5305.

Please return to: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Landowner Relations Program
270 Lyons Road
Sidney, ME 04330

Or email to Heather.Rodrigue@maine.gov

Sincerely,
Rick LaFlamme
Landowner Relations Specialist